



By the Mayor.



HE Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of the City of LONDON, taking especial notice of the inordinate Liberty now used by Vagrants and common Beggars to Wander about and pester the Streets and common Passages of this City and other places of publick meeting and resort, Who are not only idle, useless and unprofitable Members of the Kingdom, but for the most part Persons of the most profligate and debauched Practices, and most apt and ready for mischief upon all occasions. And his Lordship deeply resenting the great fault and neglect of Constables and other Officers, in not performing their Duty, to clear and free the Streets and publick places from this living Nuisance, and purposing and resolving (by the Advice of his Brethren the Aldermen) to use his utmost endeavours for remedying that mischief, doth think fit to give this publick intimation thereof, and hereby in his Majesties Name streightly to charge and require all Constables and other Officers Within this City and the Liberties thereof, Whom it doth or may concern, according to their Oaths and bounden Duty, to be very active and diligent in apprehending all Rogues, Vagabonds and sturdy Beggars, that shall be found begging, vagrant, Wandring or misordering themselves Within this City, and especially their respective Parishes and Precincts; and such of them as shall appear to have Dwellings or Abode Within the City or Liberties, to carry to Bridewel, there to be received and dealt withal according to Law, and others to punish and pass away from Parish to Parish, the next streight way to the Parish Where they were born, if the same may be

known by the parties confession or otherwise; or if it be not known, then to the Parishes where they last dwelt, before the same punishment, by the space of one whole year; or if that cannot be well known, then to the Parishes to which they last passed without punishment. Also that every Inhabitant do apprehend such Beggars, &c. as he shall know to resort to his house, to beg or receive alms, and carry or cause them to be carried to the next Constable, who is thereupon to punish and pass away such Beggar as aforesaid, upon the severest penalties to be inflicted upon every such Constable for their failure herein: And that the Dwellings of all Constables may be known, and themselves more readily found, they are forthwith to have their Staves duly placed or fixed at their Street-doors in open view of all Passengers; and themselves to remain constantly at home, or leave some other fit and able persons to perform their Office in their absence. And his Lordship having thus reminded the said Constables of their Duty in this particular, he doth also declare that he expects all ready Conformity to be yielded hereunto; in default whereof the Penalties appointed by Law shall certainly be inflicted upon them: And to this end the Marshals of this City, and their men, and the Beadles of the several Wards are required to take notice of and present to his the Names of all such Constables Whom they shall find remiss and negligent of their Duty in this service: But it is hoped that the said Constables upon this publick Admonition, will rather in conscience of their Duty, and for so great and publick a Benefit, readily acquit themselves in this matter as becomes honest and worthy Citizens, than constrain the inflicting of Penalties upon them for neglect of their Duty. And the said Marshals and Beadles are also to be very careful and industrious to avoid the said Vagrants, and bring them to Punishment in manner as aforesaid.

Dated at Guildhall, this Thirteenth day of October, 1676. and in the Eight and Twentieth Year of His Majesties Reign.

God save the King.

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